TOMB OF DRACULA

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THE TOMB OF DRACULA™

LORD OF VAMPIRES!

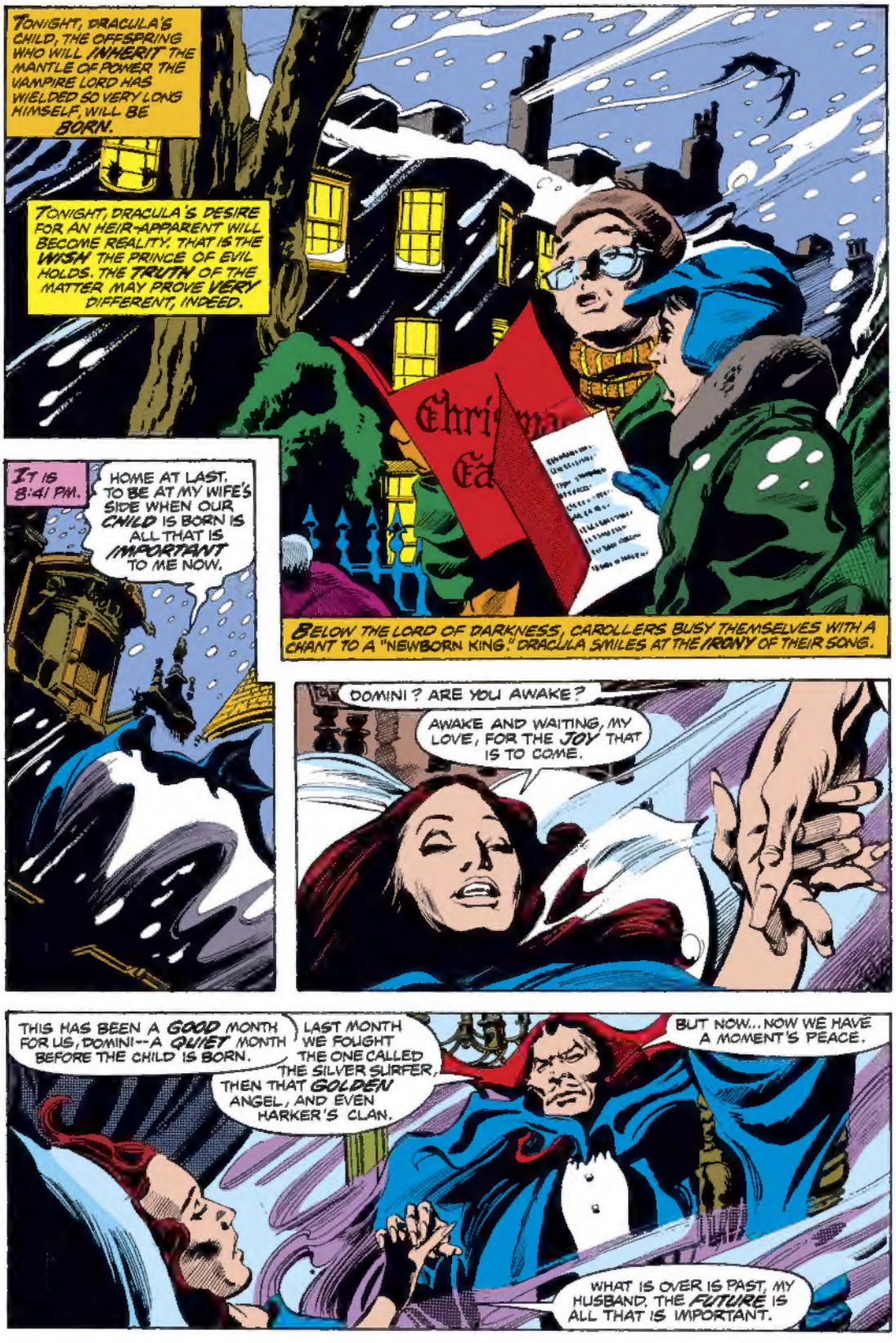
COMICDOM'S NUMBER 1 FEAR MAGAZINE

THIS IS THE BIG ONE!™

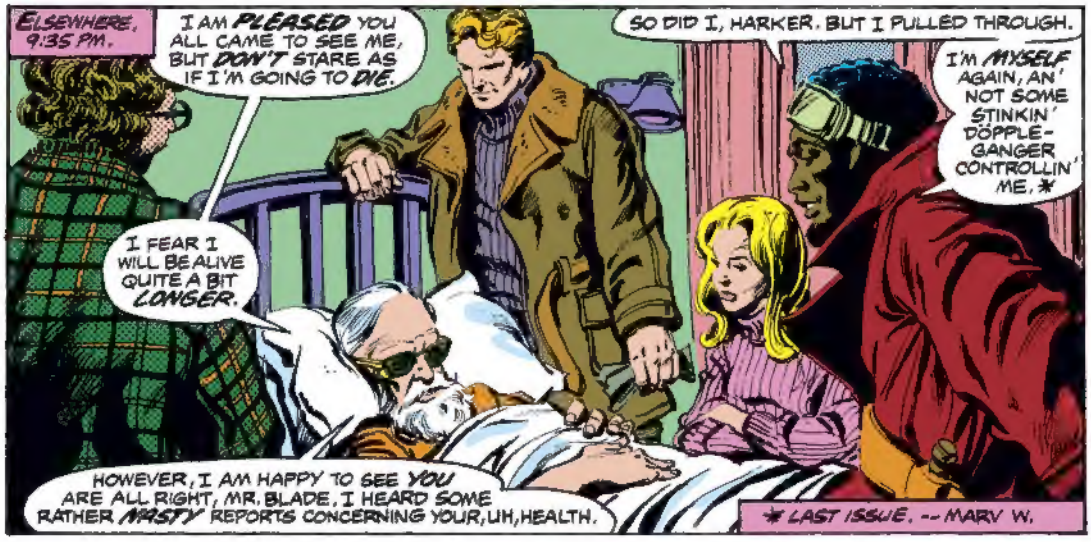
AWAY FROM HERE, MORTALS--OR YOU ARE DOOMED!

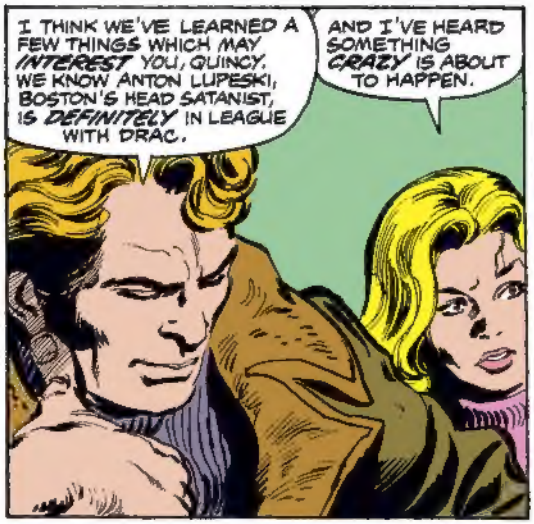
TONIGHT BELONGS TO THE SON OF DRACULA!

Stan Lee PRESENTS:
TOMB OF DRACULA!
Marv Wolfman, WRITER & EDITOR
Gene Colan & Tom Palmer, ARTISTS
John Costanza, LETTERER
Michele Wolfman, COLORIST
IT IS A COLD DECEMBER NIGHT, ONE WHICH SHOULD CHILL THE BONES OF BOTH MORTAL AND DEMON ALIKE. YET, THE CHORUSES OF SINGING MEN GIVE THEM AN INNER WARMTH...
...WHILE THE MISSION WHICH DRACULA NOW ATTENDS TO, KEEPS HIM VERY WARM, INDEED.
'Twas the night before Christmas

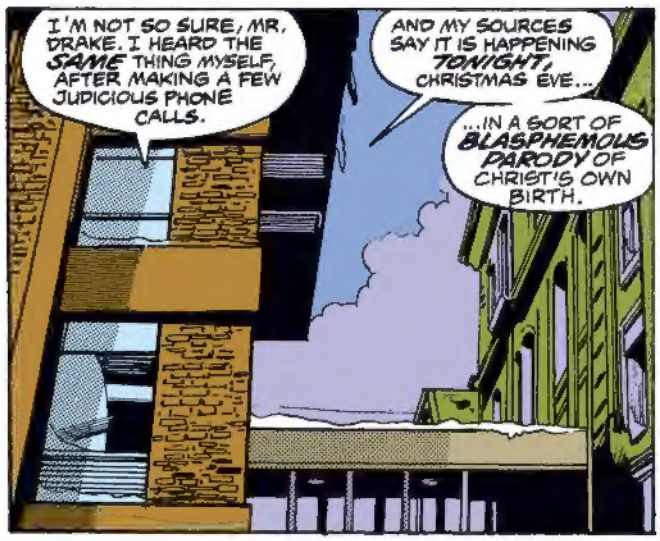

TONIGHT, DRACULA'S CHILD, THE OFFSPRING WHO WILL INHERIT THE MANTLE OF POWER THE VAMPIRE LORD HAS WIELDED SO VERY LONG HIMSELF, WILL BE BORN.
TONIGHT, DRACULA'S DESIRE FOR AN HEIR-APPARENT WILL BECOME REALITY. THAT IS THE WISH THE PRINCE OF EVIL HOLDS. THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER MAY PROVE VERY DIFFERENT, INDEED.
BELOW THE LORD OF DARKNESS, CAROLLERS BUSY THEMSELVES WITH A CHANT TO A "NEWBORN KING." DRACULA SMILES AT THE IRONY OF THEIR SONG.
IT IS 8:41 PM.
HOME AT LAST. TO BE AT MY WIFE'S SIDE WHEN OUR CHILD IS BORN IS ALL THAT IS IMPORTANT TO ME NOW.
DOMINI? ARE YOU AWAKE?
AWAKE AND WAITING, MY LOVE, FOR THE JOY THAT IS TO COME.
THIS HAS BEEN A GOOD MONTH FOR US, DOMINI--A QUIET MONTH BEFORE THE CHILD IS BORN.
LAST MONTH WE FOUGHT THE ONE CALLED THE SILVER SURFER, THEN THAT GOLDEN ANGEL, AND EVEN HARKER'S CLAN.
BUT NOW... NOW WE HAVE A MOMENT'S PEACE.
WHAT IS OVER IS PAST, MY HUSBAND. THE FUTURE IS ALL THAT IS IMPORTANT.

I-I HAVE ONLY ONE WISH, MY LOVE. ONE SMALL REQUEST. I WANT OUR CHILD BORN IN OUR DARK CHURCH, AND NOT HERE.
THE CHURCH?
MY CHILD TO BE BORN BENEATH THE IMAGE ON THAT CURSED PAINTING I AM UNABLE TO REMOVE?
EEEEAAGH
DO NOT ASK THAT OF ME, DOMINI.
PLEASE, IT IS MY ONE WISH AND DESIRE.
THE MYSTIC CEREMONY WHICH CONCEIVED OUR CHILD WAS HELD THERE. I WISH HIM BORN THERE AS WELL.
TO SYMBOLIZE OUR UNION AND LOVE.
I-I CAN NOT ARGUE WITH YOU, DOMINI. IF IT IS YOUR WISH, SO BE IT.
BUT DRACULA CURSES QUIETLY TO HIMSELF. THEN...
DARK LORD? IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU REQUIRE BEFORE THE CHILD IS BORN?
I AM SORRY IF I HAVE BOTHERED YOU, DARK LORD. I JUST WISHED TO HELP.
LUPESKI? WHO GAVE YOU LEAVE TO ENTER WITHOUT PERMISSION?
YOU HAVE DISTURBED ME. BUT THERE IS STILL ONE SMALL DETAIL TO BE COMPLETED.
WE ARE TO REMOVE MY WIFE TO THE DARK CHURCH. MY SON WILL BE BORN THERE!

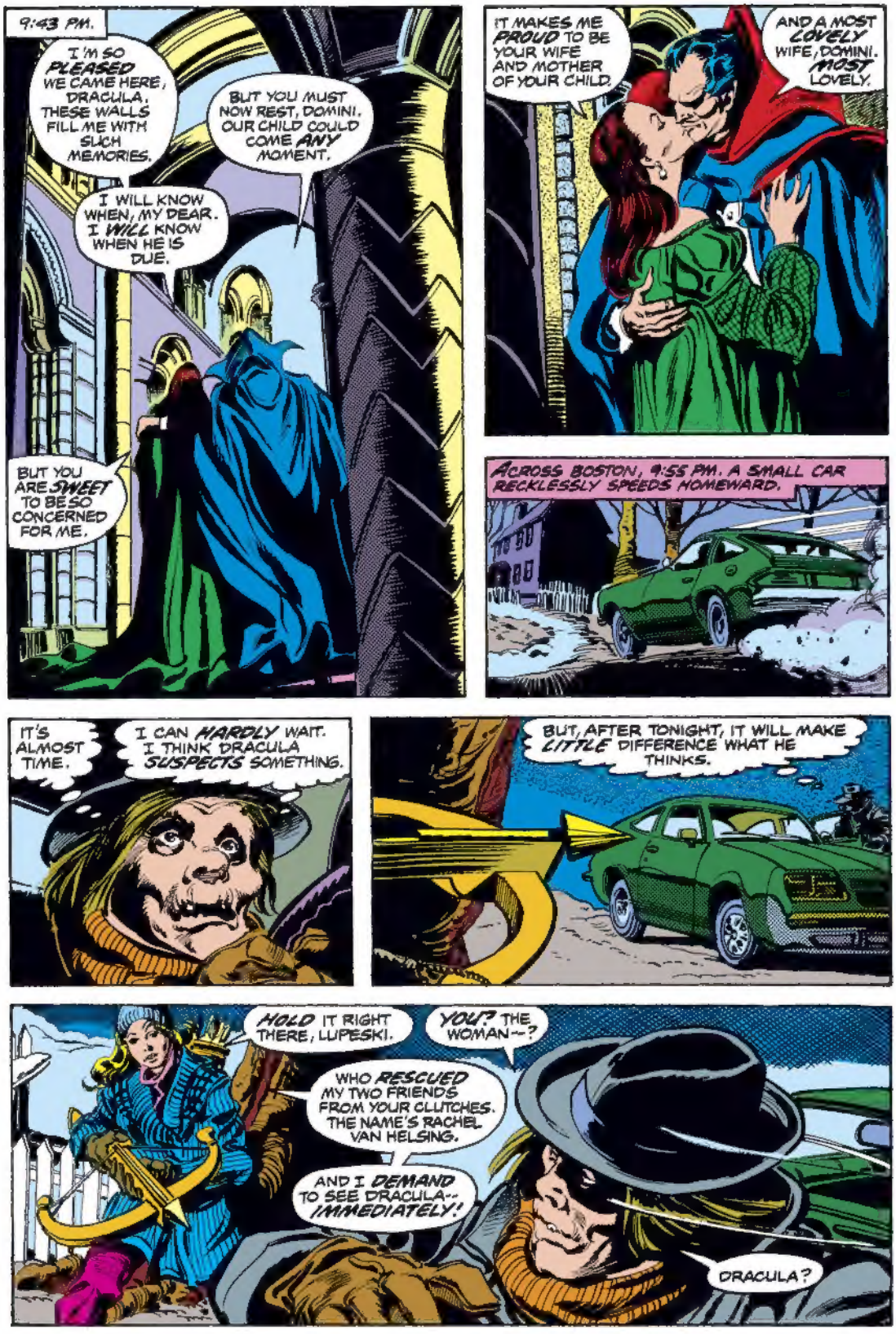

ELSEWHERE, 9:35 PM.
I AM PLEASED YOU ALL CAME TO SEE ME, BUT DON'T STARE AS IF I'M GOING TO DIE.
I FEAR I WILL BE ALIVE QUITE A BIT LONGER.
HOWEVER, I AM HAPPY TO SEE YOU ARE ALL RIGHT, MR. BLADE. I HEARD SOME RATHER NASTY REPORTS CONCERNING YOUR, UH, HEALTH.
SO DID I, HARKER. BUT I PULLED THROUGH.
I'M MYSELF AGAIN, AN' NOT SOME STINKIN' DÖPPLE-GANGER CONTROLLIN' ME, *
* LAST ISSUE. -- MARV W.

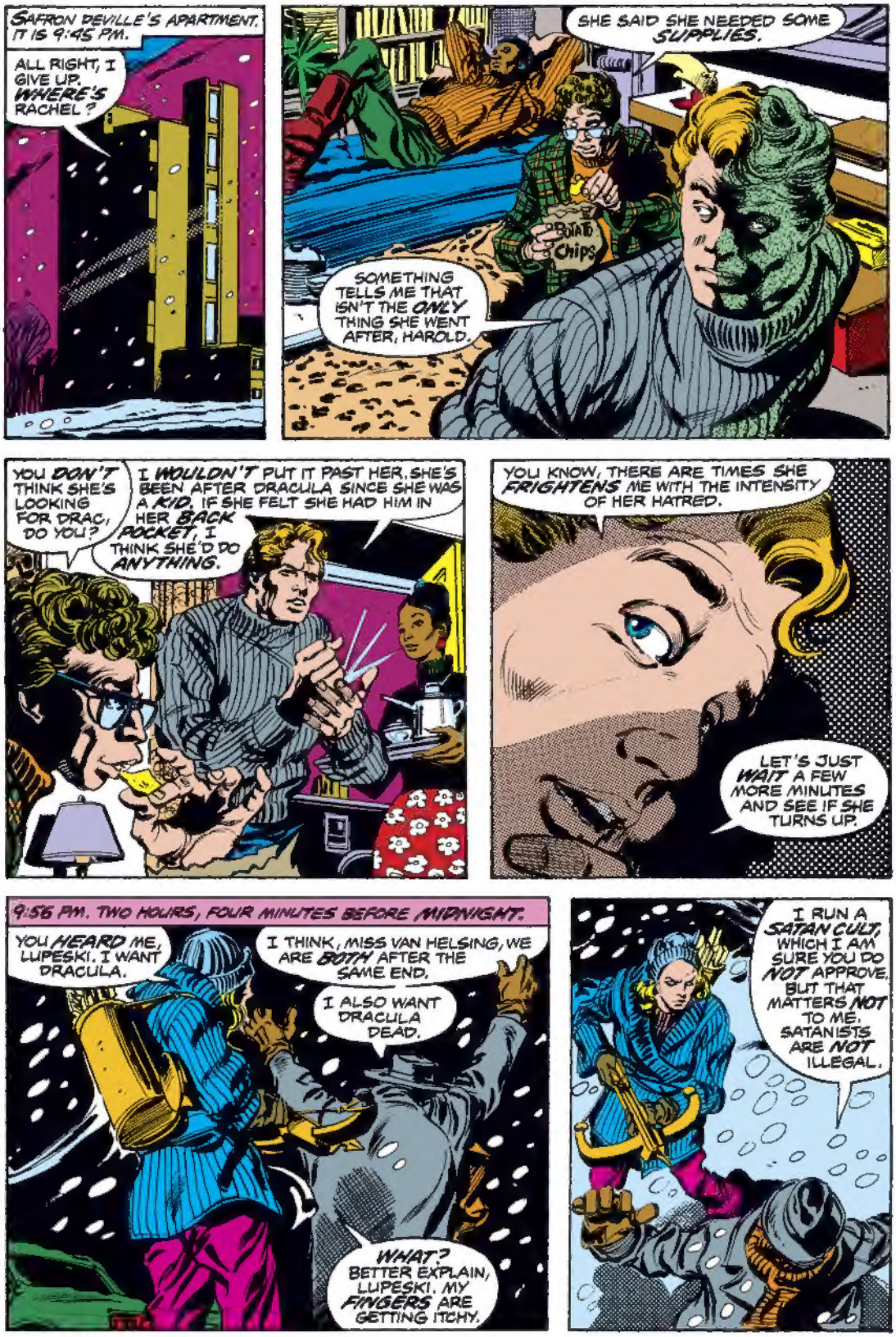

I THINK WE'VE LEARNED A FEW THINGS WHICH MAY INTEREST YOU, QUINCY. WE KNOW ANTON LUPESKI, BOSTON'S HEAD SATANIST, IS DEFINITELY IN LEAGUE WITH DRAC.
AND I'VE HEARD SOMETHING CRAZY IS ABOUT TO HAPPEN.

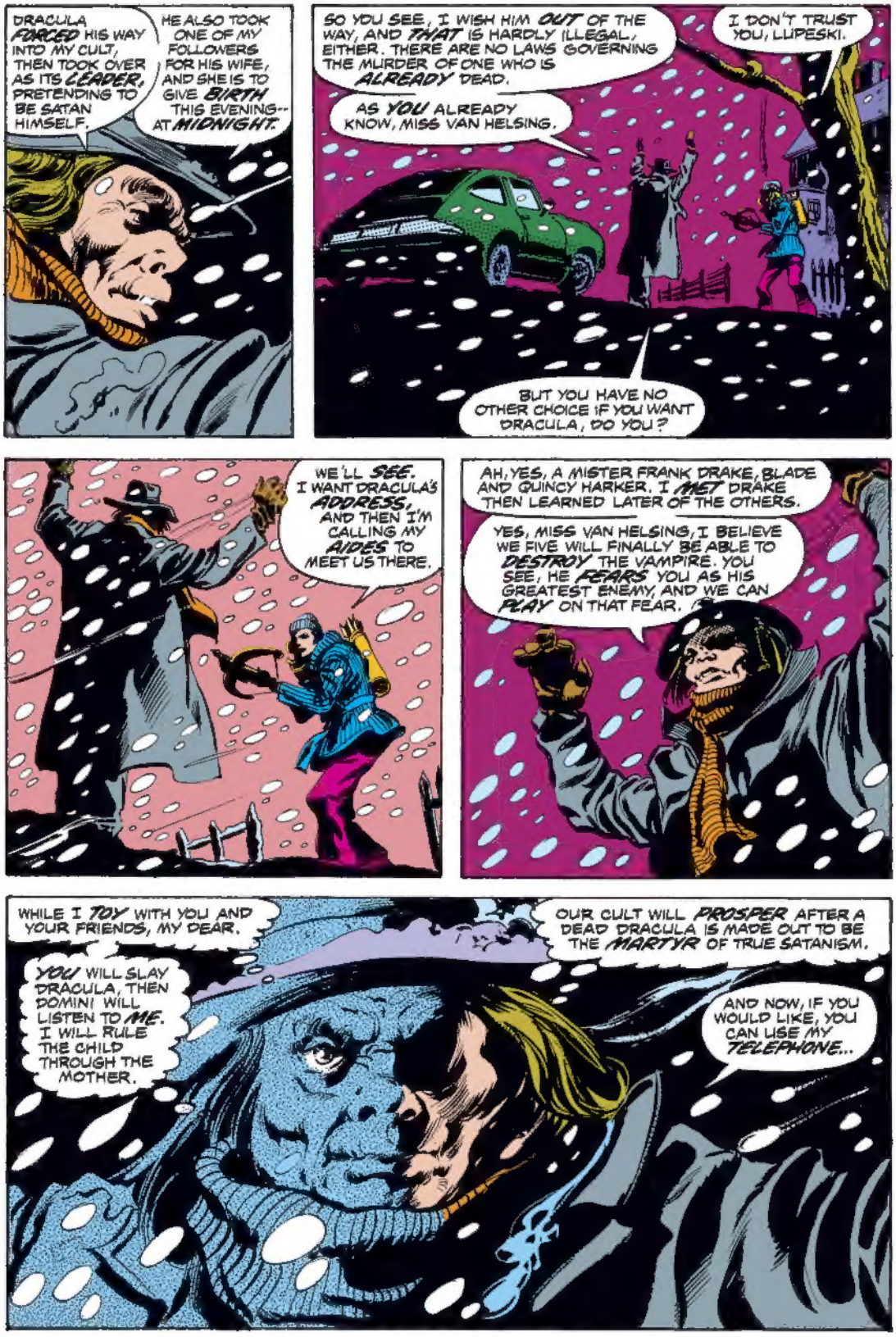
YEAH, ME, TOO, RACHEL. WHILE SEARCHING AROUND FOR THIS NOVEL I'M WRITING, I HEARD DRAC'S MARRIED AND THEY'RE HAVING A KID.
YOU POPPED YOUR GLASSES, HAROLD. THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE.


I'M NOT SO SURE, MR. DRAKE. I HEARD THE SAME THING MYSELF, AFTER MAKING A FEW JUDICIOUS PHONE CALLS.
AND MY SOURCES SAY IT IS HAPPENING TONIGHT, CHRISTMAS EVE...
...IN A SORT OF BLASPHEMOUS PARODY OF CHRIST'S OWN BIRTH.

FRIENDS, OUR HUNT MUST NEVER CEASE, AND THOUGH I YEARN TO BE WITH YOU, I CAN ONLY WISH YOU MY BEST.
DRACULA MUST DIE. FOR US, AND FOR THE SAKE OF THE WORLD!

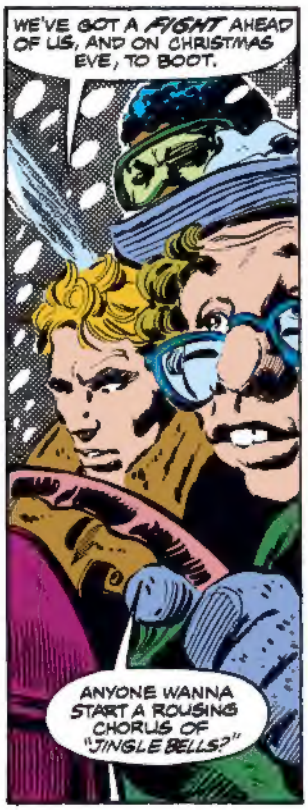

9:43 PM.
I'M SO PLEASED WE CAME HERE, DRACULA. THESE WALLS FILL ME WITH SUCH MEMORIES.
BUT YOU MUST NOW REST, DOMINI. OUR CHILD COULD COME ANY MOMENT.
I WILL KNOW WHEN, MY DEAR. I WILL KNOW WHEN HE IS DUE.
BUT YOU ARE SWEET TO BE SO CONCERNED FOR ME.
IT MAKES ME PROUD TO BE YOUR WIFE AND MOTHER OF YOUR CHILD.
AND A MOST LOVELY WIFE, DOMINI. MOST LOVELY.
ACROSS BOSTON, 9:55 PM. A SMALL CAR RECKLESSLY SPEEDS HOMEWARD.
IT'S ALMOST TIME.
I CAN HARDLY WAIT. I THINK DRACULA SUSPECTS SOMETHING.
BUT, AFTER TONIGHT, IT WILL MAKE LITTLE DIFFERENCE WHAT HE THINKS.
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, LUPESKI.
YOU? THE WOMAN--?
WHO RESCUED MY TWO FRIENDS FROM YOUR CLUTCHES. THE NAME'S RACHEL VAN HELSING.
AND I DEMAND TO SEE DRACULA-- IMMEDIATELY!
DRACULA?

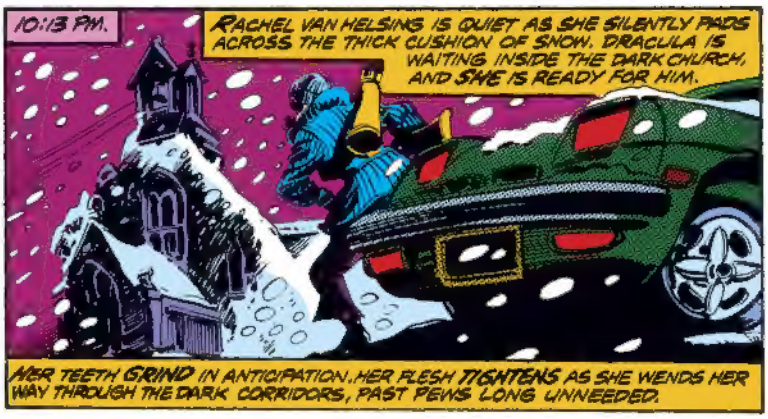

SAFRON DEVILLE'S APARTMENT. IT IS 9:45 P.M.
ALL RIGHT, I GIVE UP. WHERE'S RACHEL?
SHE SAID SHE NEEDED SOME SUPPLIES.
Barbecued Chips
SOMETHING TELLS ME THAT ISN'T THE ONLY THING SHE WENT AFTER, HAROLD.
YOU DON'T THINK SHE'S LOOKING FOR DRAC, DO YOU?
I WOULDN'T PUT IT PAST HER. SHE'S BEEN AFTER DRACULA SINCE SHE WAS A KID. IF SHE FELT SHE HAD HIM IN HER BACK POCKET, I THINK SHE'D DO ANYTHING.
YOU KNOW, THERE ARE TIMES SHE FRIGHTENS ME WITH THE INTENSITY OF HER HATRED.
LET'S JUST WAIT A FEW MORE MINUTES AND SEE IF SHE TURNS UP.
9:56 P.M. TWO HOURS, FOUR MINUTES BEFORE MIDNIGHT.
YOU HEARD ME, LUPESKI. I WANT DRACULA.
I THINK, MISS VAN HELSING, WE ARE BOTH AFTER THE SAME END.
I ALSO WANT DRACULA DEAD.
WHAT? BETTER EXPLAIN, LUPESKI. MY FINGERS ARE GETTING ITCHY.
I RUN A SATAN CULT, WHICH I AM SURE YOU DO NOT APPROVE, BUT THAT MATTERS NOT TO ME. SATANISTS ARE NOT ILLEGAL.

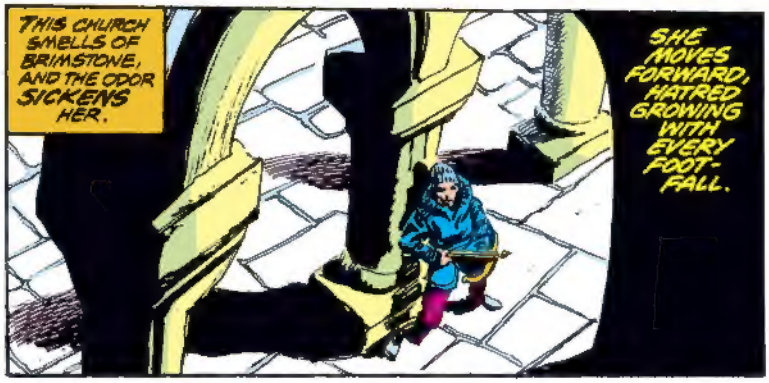

DRACULA FORCED HIS WAY INTO MY CULT, THEN TOOK OVER AS ITS LEADER, PRETENDING TO BE SATAN HIMSELF.
HE ALSO TOOK ONE OF MY FOLLOWERS FOR HIS WIFE, AND SHE IS TO GIVE BIRTH THIS EVENING-- AT MIDNIGHT.
SO YOU SEE, I WISH HIM OUT OF THE WAY, AND THAT IS HARDLY ILLEGAL, EITHER. THERE ARE NO LAWS GOVERNING THE MURDER OF ONE WHO IS ALREADY DEAD.
I DON'T TRUST YOU, LUPESKI.
AS YOU ALREADY KNOW, MISS VAN HELSING.
BUT YOU HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE IF YOU WANT DRACULA, DO YOU?
WE'LL SEE. I WANT DRACULA'S ADDRESS, AND THEN I'M CALLING MY AIDES TO MEET US THERE.
AH, YES, A MISTER FRANK DRAKE, BLADE AND QUINCY HARKER. I MET DRAKE THEN LEARNED LATER OF THE OTHERS.
YES, MISS VAN HELSING, I BELIEVE WE FIVE WILL FINALLY BE ABLE TO DESTROY THE VAMPIRE. YOU SEE, HE FEARS YOU AS HIS GREATEST ENEMY, AND WE CAN PLAY ON THAT FEAR.
WHILE I TOY WITH YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS, MY DEAR.
YOU WILL SLAY DRACULA, THEN DOMINI WILL LISTEN TO ME. I WILL RULE THE CHILD THROUGH THE MOTHER.
OUR CULT WILL PROSPER AFTER A DEAD DRACULA IS MADE OUT TO BE THE MARTYR OF TRUE SATANISM.
AND NOW, IF YOU WOULD LIKE, YOU CAN USE MY TELEPHONE...

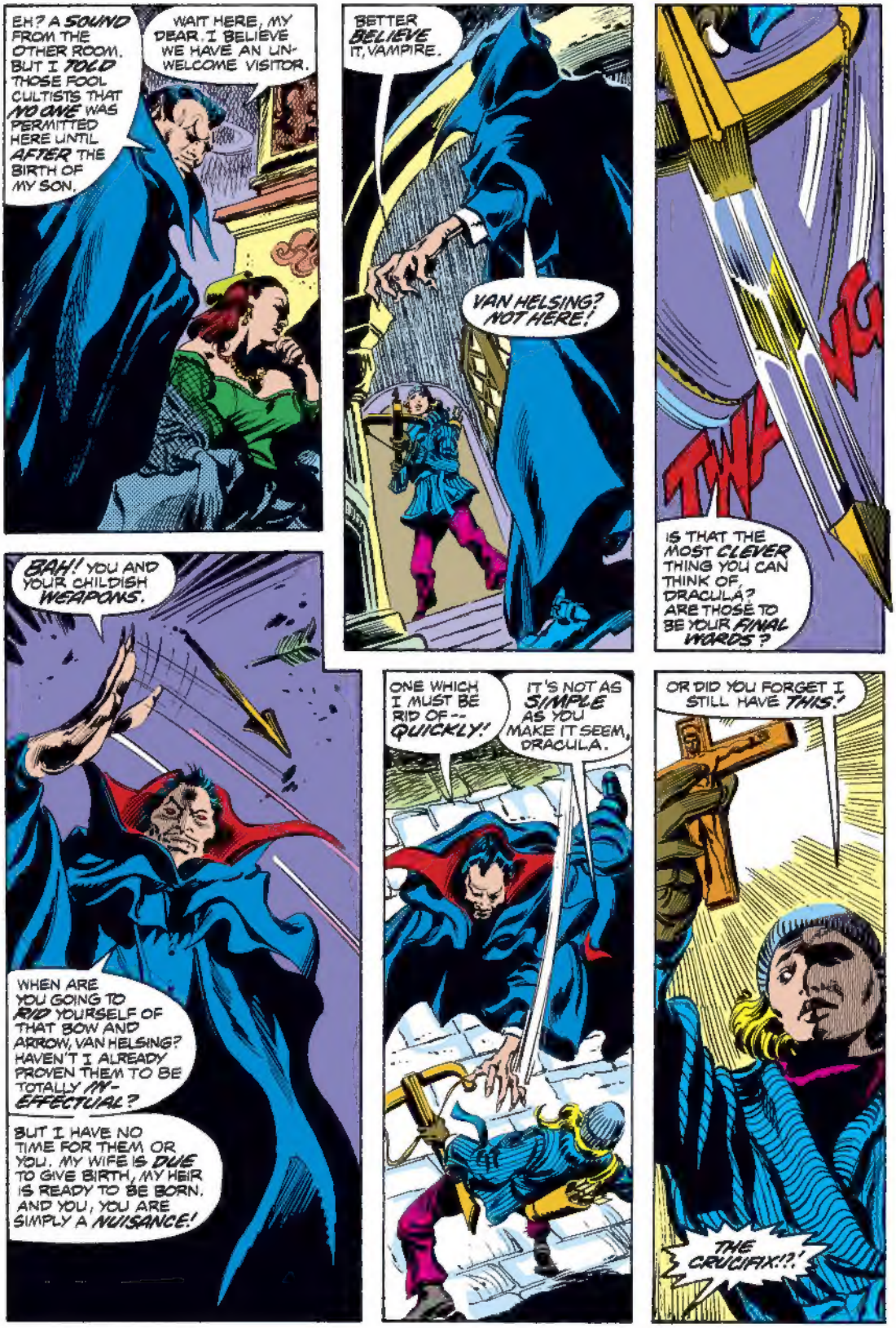
10:00 P.M.
BINGO! THAT WAS RACHEL, AND SHE'S LEARNED WHERE DRAC'S HIDING OUT-- ON THE OTHER SIDE OF TOWN.
I'LL NEED YOU, BLADE. AND HAROLD, BRING SAINT ALONG.

LISTEN, MAN, DON'T ACT SO HIGH AN' MIGHTY. I'M TAGGIN' 'LONG 'CAUSE I GOT MY OWN BEEF 'GAINST DRAC. BUT YOU'VE GOT NO HOLD ON ME, GOT THAT?
I FOUND THE VAMP I WAS SEARCHIN' FOR. I CAN JUST WALK OUTTA THIS RACKET ANYTIME I WANNA.
SPARE ME YOUR LIFE'S STORY, BLADE. I ALREADY KNOW IT BY ROTE.

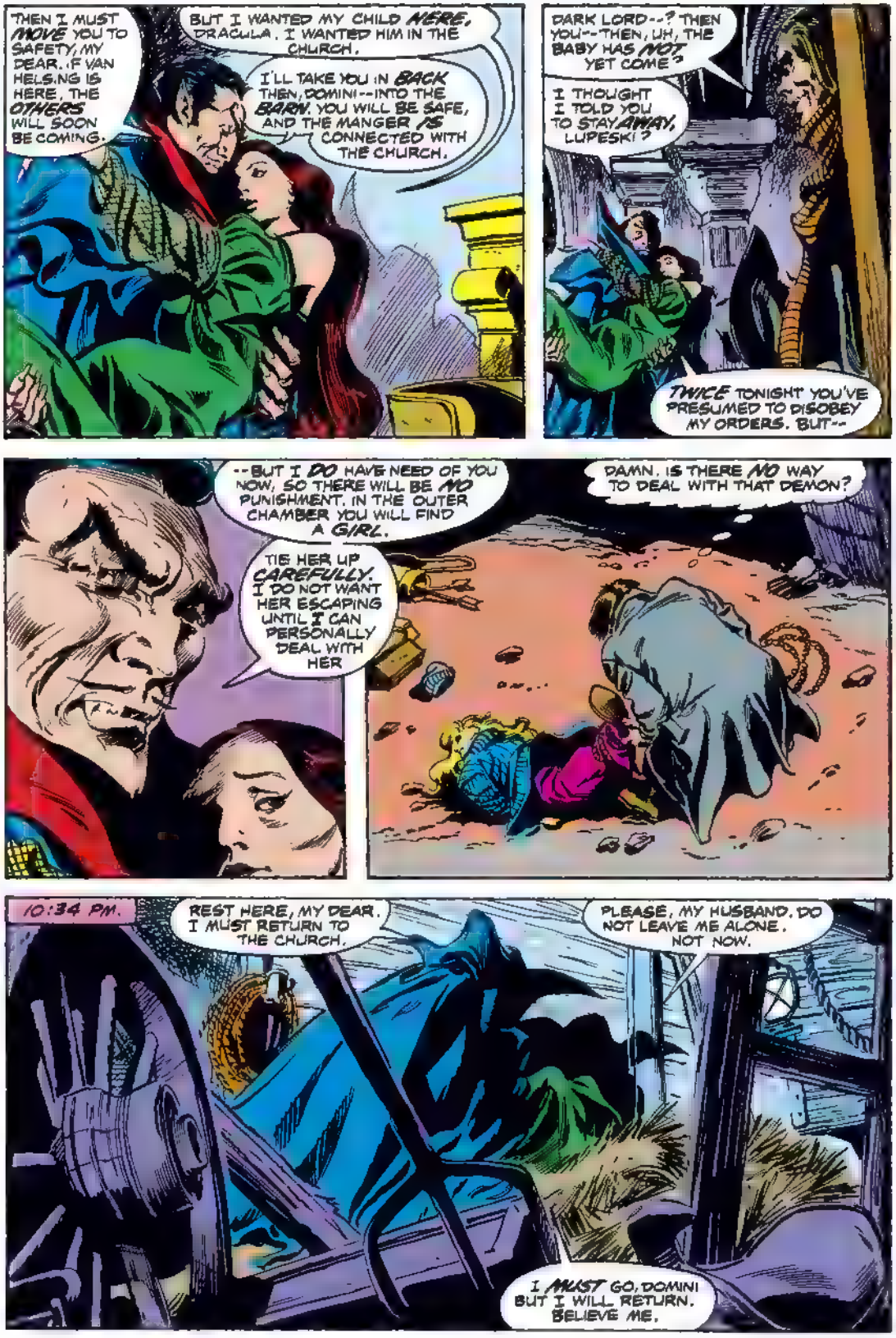

WE'VE GOT A FIGHT AHEAD OF US, AND ON CHRISTMAS EVE, TO BOOT.
ANYONE WANNA START A ROUSING CHORUS OF "JINGLE BELLS?"


10:13 P.M.
RACHEL VAN HELSING IS QUIET AS SHE SILENTLY PADS ACROSS THE THICK CUSHION OF SNOW. DRACULA IS WAITING INSIDE THE DARK CHURCH, AND SHE IS READY FOR HIM.
HER TEETH GRIND IN ANTICIPATION. HER FLESH TIGHTENS AS SHE WENDS HER WAY THROUGH THE DARK CORRIDORS, PAST PEWS LONG UNNEEDED.

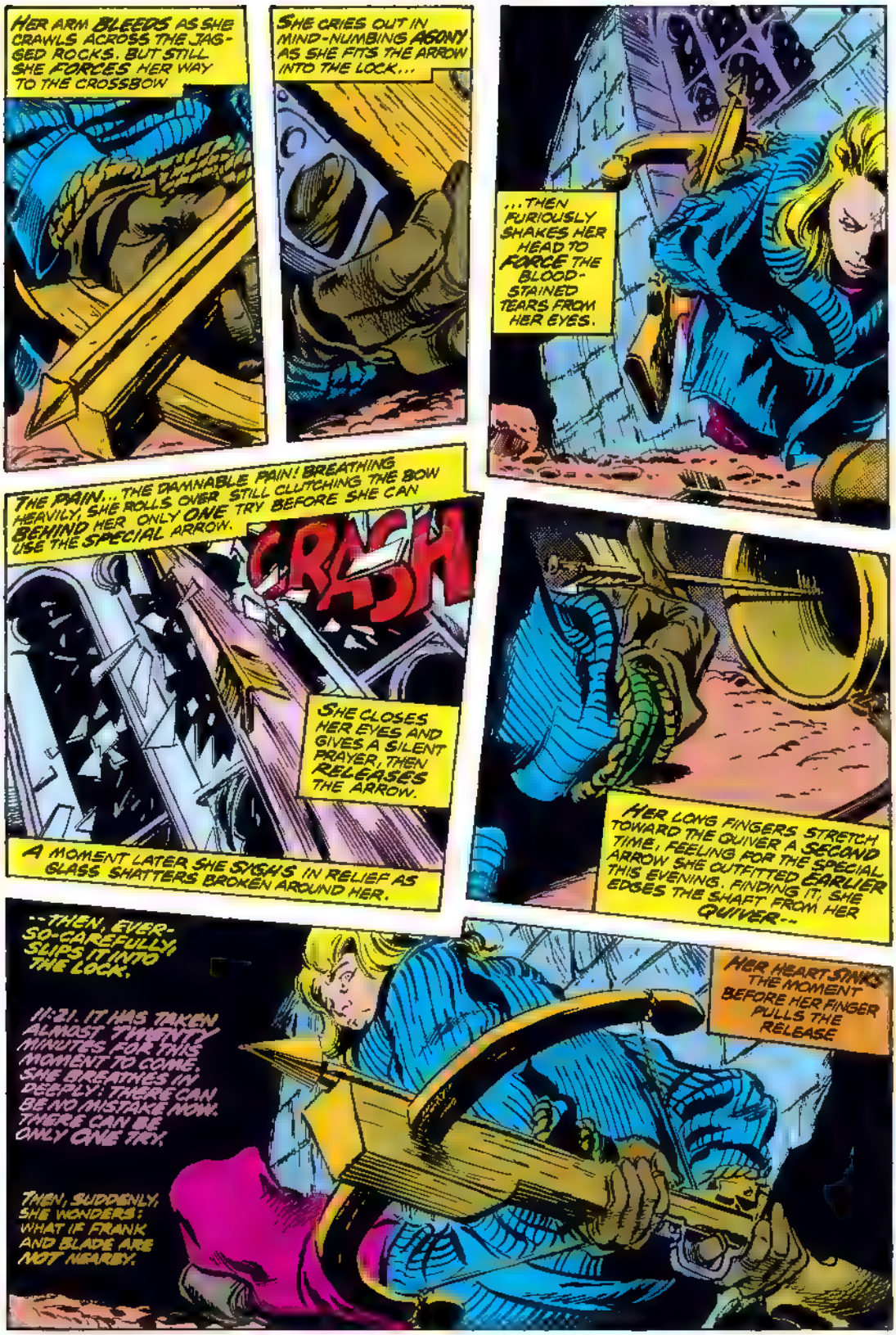

THIS CHURCH SMELLS OF BRIMSTONE, AND THE ODOR SICKENS HER.
SHE MOVES FORWARD, HATRED GROWING WITH EVERY FOOT-FALL.

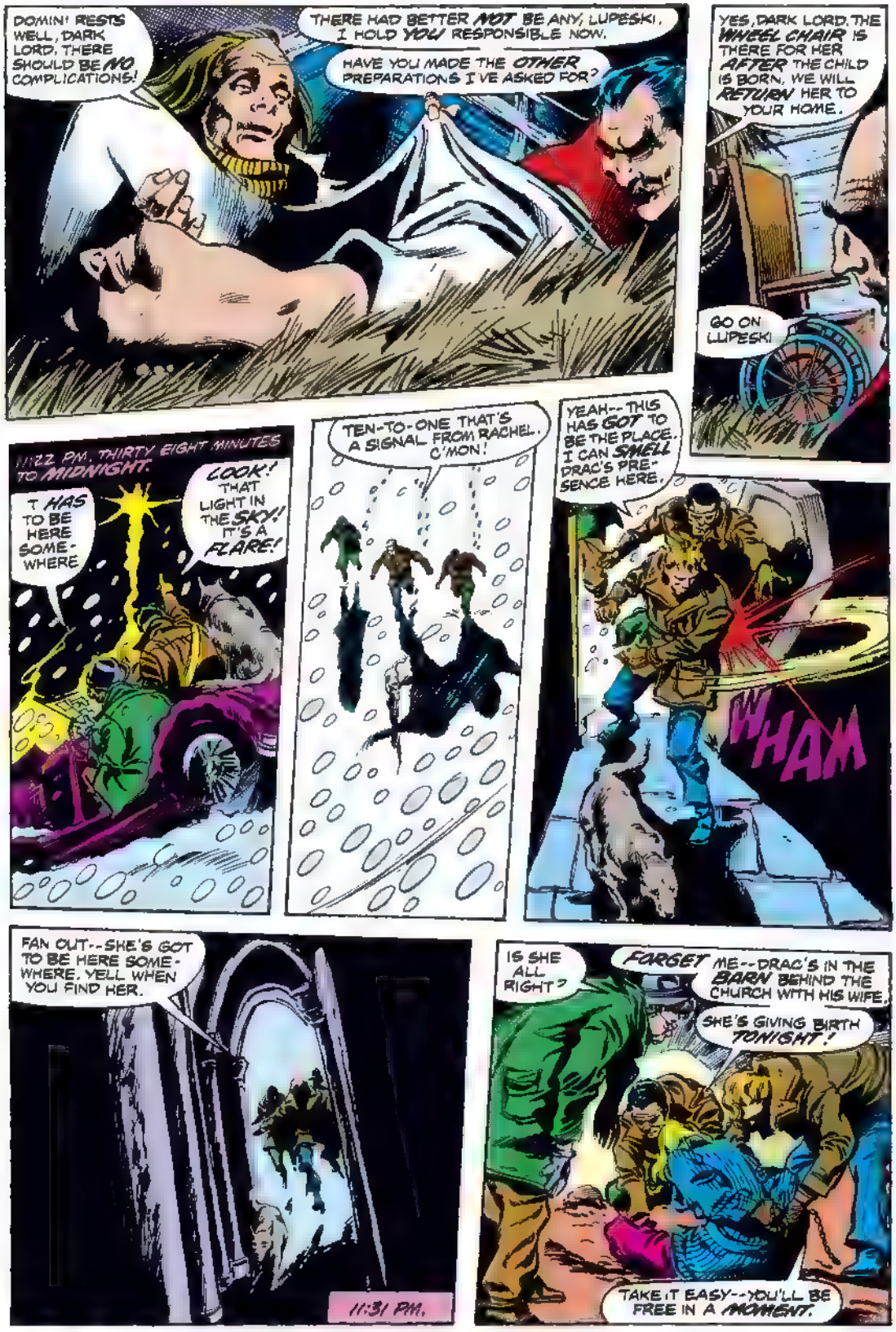

EH? A SOUND FROM THE OTHER ROOM. BUT I TOLD THOSE FOOL CULTISTS THAT NO ONE WAS PERMITTED HERE UNTIL AFTER THE BIRTH OF MY SON.
WAIT HERE, MY DEAR. I BELIEVE WE HAVE AN UNWELCOME VISITOR.
BETTER BELIEVE IT, VAMPIRE.
VAN HELSING? NOT HERE!
TWANG
IS THAT THE MOST CLEVER THING YOU CAN THINK OF, DRACULA? ARE THOSE TO BE YOUR FINAL WORDS?
BAH! YOU AND YOUR CHILDISH WEAPONS.
WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO RID YOURSELF OF THAT BOW AND ARROW, VAN HELSING? HAVEN'T I ALREADY PROVEN THEM TO BE TOTALLY IN-EFFECTUAL?
BUT I HAVE NO TIME FOR THEM OR YOU. MY WIFE IS DUE TO GIVE BIRTH, MY HEIR IS READY TO BE BORN. AND YOU, YOU ARE SIMPLY A NUISANCE!
ONE WHICH I MUST BE RID OF -- QUICKLY!
IT'S NOT AS SIMPLE AS YOU MAKE IT SEEM, DRACULA.
OR DID YOU FORGET I STILL HAVE THIS!
THE CRUCIFIX!?!

BLAST YOU, VAN HELSING! GET THAT DAMNABLE OBJECT AWAY FROM ME.
AGGGHHH! I CAN NOT STAND THE PAIN...THE AGONY!
THAT'S THE POWER OF GOD, DRACULA. A POWER EVEN YOU CAN NOT BATTLE!
DRACULA! WHAT IS HAPPENING, MY HUSBAND?
DOMINI NEEDS ME? THE CHILD--?
THIS IS NO TIME FOR YOUR GAMES, VAN HELSING. I CAN NOT ATTACK YOU, BUT I CAN RETREAT FOR THE MOMENT, TO RETURN EVER STRONGER!
IT IS AN EERIE METAMORPHOSIS, ONE WHICH NEVER FAILS TO CHILL RACHEL'S FRAGILE SOUL DRACULA'S FLESH DISSOLVES... CHANGES .. REFORMS ...INTO THE MID-NIGHT MIST--
--THEN, ON A BREEZE, FLEES FROM THE CRUCIFIX HE SO DESPISES.
BUT THE VAMPIRE HUNTRESS GIVES CHASE. HER FEET GLIDE SWIFTLY THROUGH CORRIDORS DARK AS COAL BUT NEVER ONCE DOES SHE LOSE THE DIFFICULT, WINDING TRAIL
BUT THEN, AROUND ONE PARTICULAR BEND...
ENOUGH! MY WIFE NEEDS ME, AND YOU HAVE NO PLACE NEAR HER.
UNNGGHHH!
YOU ARE ALL RIGHT, MY DEAR?
I...I FEEL THE CHILD, MY LOVE...I FEEL HIM FIGHTING HIS WAY OUT. I-IT WILL BE ANYTIME NOW, DRACULA... ANYTIME...

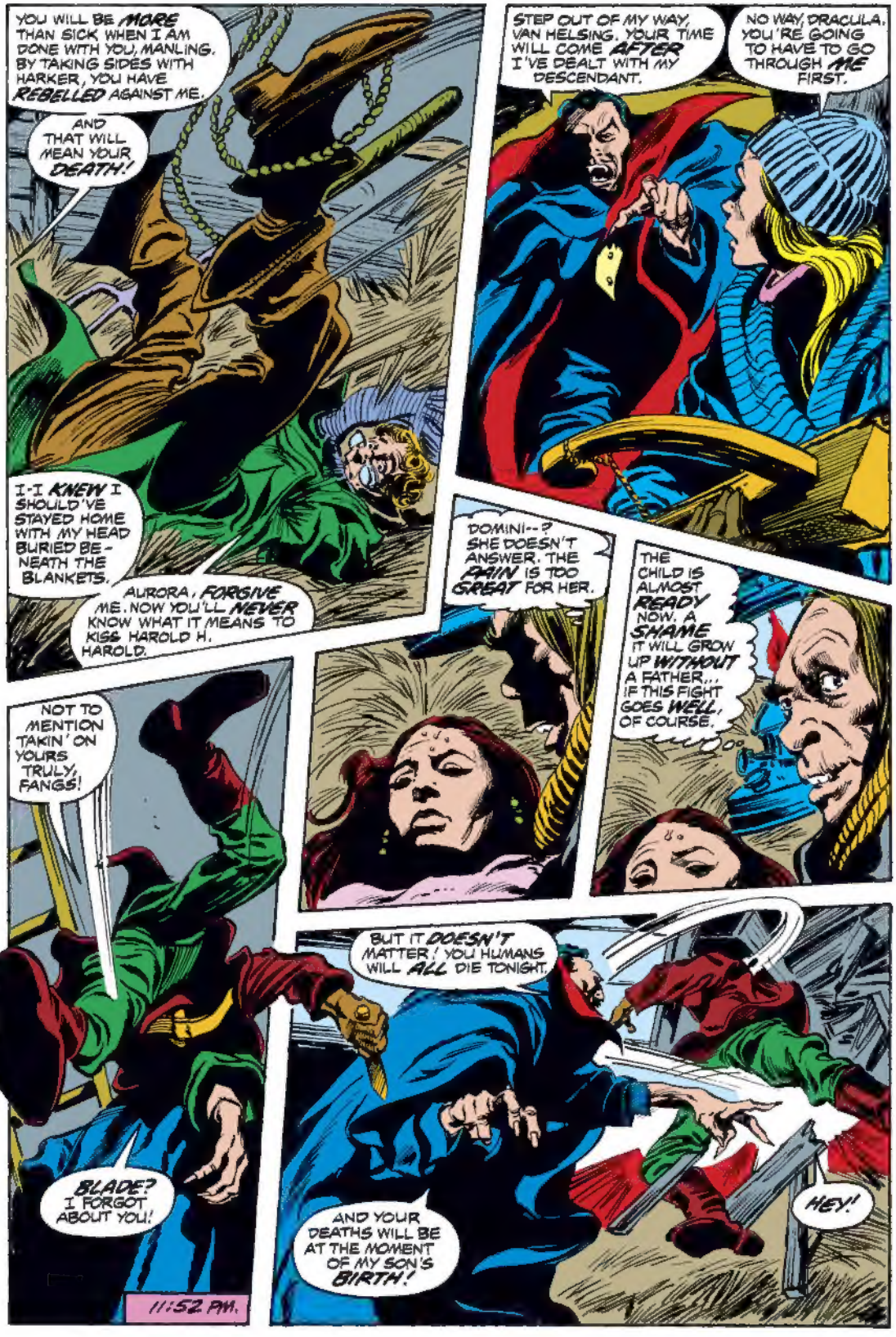

THEN I MUST MOVE YOU TO SAFETY, MY DEAR. IF VAN HELSING IS HERE, THE OTHERS WILL SOON BE COMING.
BUT I WANTED MY CHILD HERE, DRACULA. I WANTED HIM IN THE CHURCH.
I'LL TAKE YOU IN BACK THEN, DOMINI--INTO THE BARN. YOU WILL BE SAFE, AND THE MANGER IS CONNECTED WITH THE CHURCH.
DARK LORD--? THEN YOU--THEN, UH, THE BABY HAS NOT YET COME?
I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU TO STAY AWAY, LUPESKI?
TWICE TONIGHT YOU'VE PRESUMED TO DISOBEY MY ORDERS. BUT--
--BUT I DO HAVE NEED OF YOU NOW, SO THERE WILL BE NO PUNISHMENT. IN THE OUTER CHAMBER YOU WILL FIND A GIRL.
TIE HER UP CAREFULLY. I DO NOT WANT HER ESCAPING UNTIL I CAN PERSONALLY DEAL WITH HER
DAMN. IS THERE NO WAY TO DEAL WITH THAT DEMON?
10:34 PM.
REST HERE, MY DEAR. I MUST RETURN TO THE CHURCH.
PLEASE, MY HUSBAND. DO NOT LEAVE ME ALONE. NOT NOW.
I MUST GO, DOMINI BUT I WILL RETURN. BELIEVE ME.

10:47 PM. A LONELY STRETCH OF ROAD NOT FAR AWAY...
ALL RIGHT KID-- WHERE ARE WE?
OOOOWW
I-I'M NOT SURE, BLADE. I DON'T KNOW THIS PART OF TOWN TOO WELL.
BUT WE'VE GOT TO BE CLOSE. I'M SURE OF THAT.
11:03.
SHE IS STILL HERE. VERY GOOD, LUPESKI.
YOU TOLD ME TO TIE HER, DARK LORD. DID YOU THINK I WOULD EVER DISOBEY YOU?
DO NOT ASK. IT IS BETTER THAT YOU DO NOT HEAR MY ANSWER
NOW COME THE TIME IS ALMOST NIGH, AND I WANT SOMEONE WITH MY WIFE AS I SEARCH THE CHURCH FOR MORE INTRUDERS.
RACHEL VAN HELSING'S FACE PRESSES DEEP IN THE MUD BENEATH HER. SHE DOESN'T MOVE. TO ALL, SHE IS UNCONSCIOUS.
BUT, ONCE DRACULA AND LUPESKI LEAVE, SHE TILTS HER HEAD UPWARDS, ALERT.
SHE LOOKS ABOUT HER, PICKING UP FAMILIAR SHAPES EVEN IN THE DARKNESS.
HER CROSSBOW... HER ARROWS.
THANK GOD THEY WERE NOT DESTROYED...


HER ARM BLEEDS AS SHE CRAWLS ACROSS THE JAGGED ROCKS. BUT STILL SHE FORCES HER WAY TO THE CROSSBOW
SHE CRIES OUT IN MIND-NUMBING AGONY AS SHE FITS THE ARROW INTO THE LOCK...
...THEN FURIOUSLY SHAKES HER HEAD TO FORCE THE BLOOD-STAINED TEARS FROM HER EYES.
THE PAIN... THE DAMNABLE PAIN! BREATHING HEAVILY, SHE ROLLS OVER STILL CLUTCHING THE BOW BEHIND HER ONLY ONE TRY BEFORE SHE CAN USE THE SPECIAL ARROW.
CRASH
SHE CLOSES HER EYES AND GIVES A SILENT PRAYER, THEN RELEASES THE ARROW.
A MOMENT LATER SHE SIGHS IN RELIEF AS GLASS SHATTERS BROKEN AROUND HER.
HER LONG FINGERS STRETCH TOWARD THE QUIVER A SECOND TIME, FEELING FOR THE SPECIAL ARROW SHE OUTFITTED EARLIER THIS EVENING. FINDING IT, SHE EDGES THE SHAFT FROM HER QUIVER--
--THEN, EVER-SO-CAREFULLY, SLIPS IT INTO THE LOCK.
11:21. IT HAS TAKEN ALMOST TWENTY MINUTES FOR THIS MOMENT TO COME. SHE BREATHES IN DEEPLY: THERE CAN BE NO MISTAKE NOW. THERE CAN BE ONLY ONE TRY.
THEN, SUDDENLY, SHE WONDERS: WHAT IF FRANK AND BLADE ARE NOT NEARBY.
HER HEART STINGS THE MOMENT BEFORE HER FINGER PULLS THE RELEASE


DOMIN! RESTS WELL, DARK LORD; THERE SHOULD BE NO COMPLICATIONS!
THERE HAD BETTER NOT BE ANY, LUPESKI. I HOLD YOU RESPONSIBLE NOW.
HAVE YOU MADE THE OTHER PREPARATIONS I'VE ASKED FOR?
YES, DARK LORD. THE WHEEL CHAIR IS THERE FOR HER AFTER THE CHILD IS BORN, WE WILL RETURN HER TO YOUR HOME.
GO ON LUPESKI
11:22 P.M. THIRTY EIGHT MINUTES TO MIDNIGHT.
T HAS TO BE HERE SOME-WHERE
LOOK! THAT LIGHT IN THE SKY! IT'S A FLARE!
TEN-TO-ONE THAT'S A SIGNAL FROM RACHEL. C'MON!
YEAH--THIS HAS GOT TO BE THE PLACE. I CAN SMELL DRAC'S PRE-SENCE HERE.
WHAM
FAN OUT--SHE'S GOT TO BE HERE SOME-WHERE. YELL WHEN YOU FIND HER.
11:31 P.M.
IS SHE ALL RIGHT?
FORGET ME--DRAC'S IN THE BARN BEHIND THE CHURCH WITH HIS WIFE.
SHE'S GIVING BIRTH TONIGHT!
TAKE IT EASY--YOU'LL BE FREE IN A MOMENT.

11:35 PM.
I DO NOT LIKE THE SOUNDS DOMINI IS MAKING, LUPESKI.
SHE IS ALMOST READY, DARK LORD. HER CONTRACTIONS ARE COMING MORE FREQUENTY NOW.
DAMN. I WISH IT WERE OVER. I FEAR THAT--
WE'D BE HERE, DRAC? WELL, WE ARE!
AND WE'RE READY TO STOP YOU, NOW AND FOREVER!
DRAKE? MY DAMNABLE DESCENDANT. IT IS FITTING YOU SHOULD BE HERE NOW.
AS MY WIFE INCREASES THE LINE OF DRACULA WITH THE BIRTH OF ONE SON--
--I PUT AN END TO ANOTHER BRANCH OF MY FAMILY TREE-- BY SLAYING YOU!
HUH?
PLEASE.. LET ME DOWN! I GET AIR-SICK!
OUT OF MY WAY, MANLING--IT IS FRANK DRAKE WHOM I FIRST WISH TO BE RID OF THIS NIGHT!


YOU WILL BE MORE THAN SICK WHEN I AM DONE WITH YOU, MANLING. BY TAKING SIDES WITH HARKER, YOU HAVE REBELLED AGAINST ME.
AND THAT WILL MEAN YOUR DEATH!
I-I KNEW I SHOULD'VE STAYED HOME WITH MY HEAD BURIED BE-NEATH THE BLANKETS.
AURORA, FORGIVE ME. NOW YOU'LL NEVER KNOW WHAT IT MEANS TO KISS HAROLD H. HAROLD.
STEP OUT OF MY WAY, VAN HELSING. YOUR TIME WILL COME AFTER I'VE DEALT WITH MY DESCENDANT.
NO WAY, DRACULA. YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO GO THROUGH ME FIRST.
DOMINI--? SHE DOESN'T ANSWER. THE PAIN IS TOO GREAT FOR HER.
THE CHILD IS ALMOST READY NOW. A SHAME IT WILL GROW UP WITHOUT A FATHER... IF THIS FIGHT GOES WELL, OF COURSE.
NOT TO MENTION TAKIN' ON YOURS TRULY, FANGS!
BLADE? I FORGOT ABOUT YOU!
11:52 PM.
BUT IT DOESN'T MATTER! YOU HUMANS WILL ALL DIE TONIGHT.
AND YOUR DEATHS WILL BE AT THE MOMENT OF MY SON'S BIRTH!
HEY!

AND NOW, DRAKE, I-- WHAT?
THE DOG! THE ONE THEY CALL SAINT!
EVEN HE DARES ATTACK ME? YOU ARE ALL MAD!
GGGRRRRR
TO SLAY YOU WILL BE TO SAVE MY NEW ORDER FROM YOUR MADNESS!
AWAY, CUR-- AWAY!
ALL RIGHT, GRAND PAPPY. YOU WANTED ME, YOU'VE GOT ME!
IT'S THE TWO OF US, NOW. JUST AS WE BOTH NEW IT WOULD EVENTUALLY BE.
INDEED, DRAKE? YOU ARE HARDLY THE MATCH FOR OLD MAN HARKER, LET ALONE ME.
LOOK AT THE EASE WITH WHICH I CAN DO THIS!
CRASH

HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, DRACULA. THE GAME'S OVER.
VAN HELSING- AGAIN WITH THE BOW?
I OUGHT TO--
EH?
THAT CRY...?
MIDNIGHT!
WAAWHHHH
FOR LONG MINUTES THERE IS CONFUSED STILLNESS. THEN...
DRACULA... MY DEAR HUSBAND... OUR CHILD...
...OUR SON.
I WANT TO LEAVE NOW, DRACULA. AND I WANT NO ONE TO COME TO ANY HARM.
NOT TONIGHT... NOT THE NIGHT OF THIS VERY SPECIAL BIRTH.
YOU HEARD MY WIFE. AND AS MUCH AS I HATE WHAT I MUST SAY, YOU ARE FREE TO GO, UNHARMED.
LEAVE NOW, AND I WILL RETURN LATER --ONCE I KNOW MY CHILD IS SAFE.
STAY, AND I SWEAR NOT ONLY SHALL YOU DIE, BUT YOUR DEATHS WILL BE MOST UNPLEASANT.
I--I... UHHHH...
LET US GO, MY LOVE. THERE WILL BE OTHER NIGHTS FOR FIGHTING.
BUT TONIGHT... TONIGHT IS A NIGHT FOR PEACE.
I COULDN'T STOP HIM. I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT I COULDN'T.
I THINK I KNOW WHY, RACHEL. AND I THINK THE ANSWER IS WHAT MAKES US ALL TOO HUMAN.
IN THE FAR DISTANCE, BELLS CAN BE HEARD TOLLING THE BIRTH OF ONE CHILD TWO THOUSAND YEARS PAST, AND ANOTHER INFANT JUST BORN.
FIN